

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, further consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claims 13, 18, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 44 are amended. It is noted that claims 13-16, 18, 19, 21-28 and 44 are currently pending in this application.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 18-19 are allowable.

It is noted that the Examiner has rejected claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takai et al. (USPN: 5,537,377) and has rejected claims 21-28 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al. (USPN: 4,853,916) in view of Takai et al.

The Examiner has taken the position that, although the features recited in the preamble of the rejected independent claims are not disclosed by the prior art references, such features are not given patentable weight since they are recited in the preamble of the claims [see "*Response to Applicant's Arguments*" on page 4 of the Office Action].

Accordingly, without intending to acquiesce to the Examiner's aforementioned rejections and in order to expedite allowance of this application, each of independent claims 13, 21 and 44 has been amended so as to move the above-mentioned features from the preamble into the body of the claim.

Thus, it is submitted that the present invention as claimed in each of independent claims 13, 18, 21 and 44, as well as claims 14-16, 19, and 22-28 dependent thereon, is clearly allowable and the Examiner is kindly requested to now promptly pass this case to issuance.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36418.

Respectfully submitted,
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